

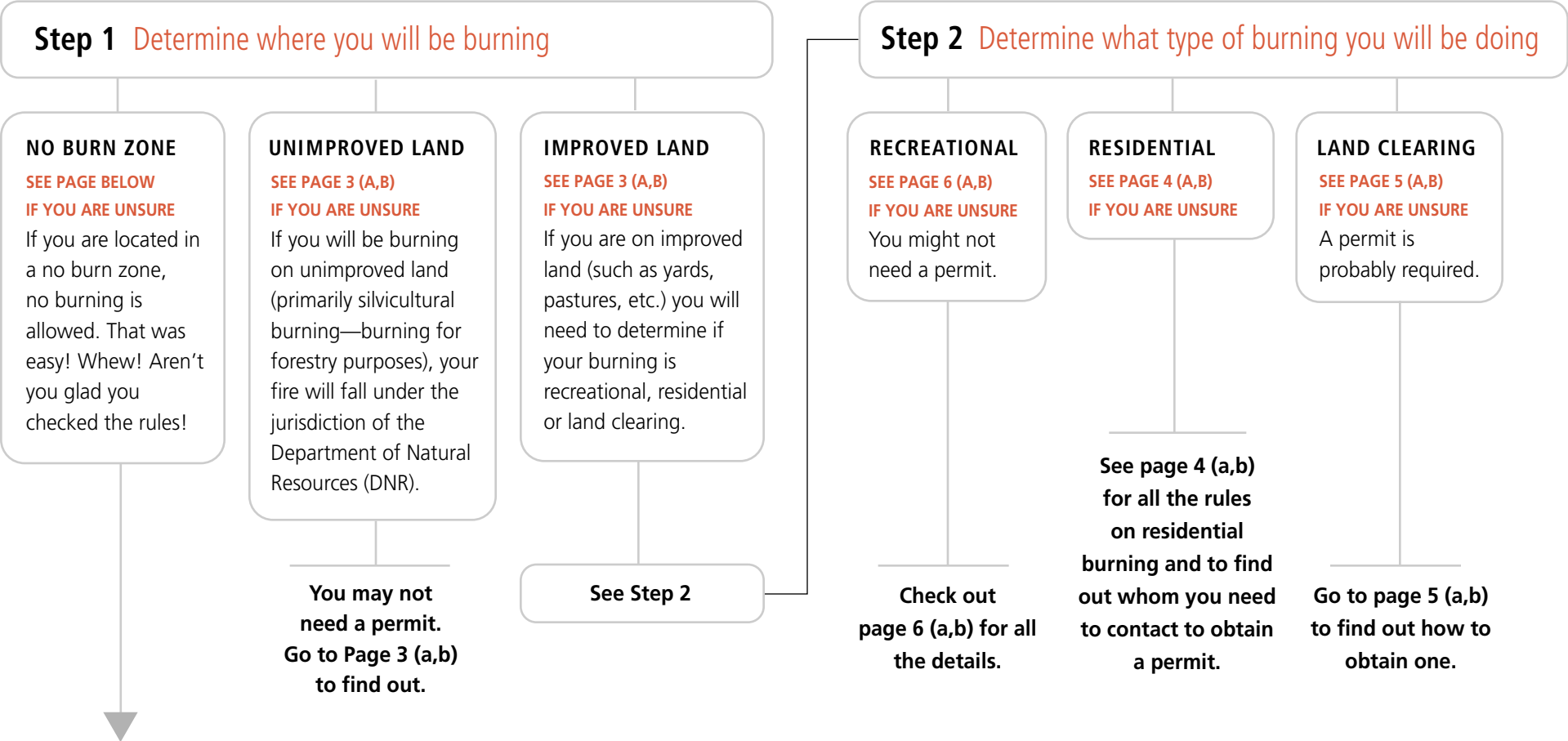
# burnoutdoors?

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FOLLOW THE RULES | CALL 800.323.BURN

OUTDOOR BURNING RULES FOR SKAMANIA, CLARK, COWLITZ, WAHIAKUM AND LEWIS COUNTIES

**B**urning responsibly is the best way to prevent unwanted wildfires and thousands of dollars in suppression costs. Escaped debris burns are a leading cause of wildfires in the State of Washington. This brochure is full of information and tips to help you burn safely and legally.



# No Burn Zones

## ▼ COUNTY REQUIREMENTS

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WAHKIAKUM	LEWIS	COWLITZ	CLARK	SKAMANIA
Public Works (360) 795-3067	Dept. of Community Development (360) 740-1133	Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) 1-800-633-0709	Fire Marshal's Office (360) 397-2186	Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) 1-800-633-0709
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of 2006, Wahkiakum County does not have any No Burn Zones, though some may be designated in the future based on population density.<sup>1</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of 2006, Lewis County has one No Burn Zone, and more may be designated in the future<sup>1</sup>, based on population density.</li><li>No burning is allowed inside the city limits of Centralia and Chehalis or their surrounding urban growth areas.<sup>2</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of 2006, Cowlitz County has one No Burn Zone, and more may be designated in the future, based on population density.</li><li>No burning is allowed within the Expanded Longview/Kelso No Burn Zone, which includes the cities of Longview and Kelso; densely populated areas bordering these two cities; and in their surrounding urban growth areas.<sup>1</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of 2006, Clark County has two No Burn Zones, and more may be designated in the future, based on population density.</li><li>No burning is allowed within the southern Clark County and Expanded Battle Ground No Burn Zones, which jointly include the cities of Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground; densely populated areas bordering these four cities; and in their surrounding urban growth areas.<sup>2</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of 2006, Skamania County does not have any No Burn Zones, though some may be designated in the future<sup>1</sup>, based on population density.<sup>3</sup></li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> To find out if you live within a "No Burning Zone" call Southwest Clean Air Agency at 1-800-633-0709 or visit [www.swcleanair.org/burninginfo.html](http://www.swcleanair.org/burninginfo.html) to see a map of the No Burn Zone in your area.

<sup>2</sup> Except for camp/recreational fires under 3x3x2 feet, all outdoor burning of yard, forest, and land clearing debris is permanently prohibited.

<sup>3</sup> Burning natural vegetation outdoors is allowed on all non-federal lands in the county, except during temporary state or local burn bans to reduce the risk of air pollution or hazardous wildfires.



## Regulations for Silvicultural Burning and Burning on Unimproved\* Property

### JURISDICTION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

#### **No permit is required if the burn meets ALL of the following criteria:**

- ▶ At least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting out the fire and has a method of calling 9-1-1 must be in attendance at all times.
- ▶ Only one pile is burning at a time.
- ▶ Winds are calm or light and do not exceed 7 to 10 miles per hour.
- ▶ A fire break is clear and is free of flammable material. Rule of thumb is 1.5 times the height of the pile.
- ▶ Between July 1 and October 15, the pile is less than 4 feet across OR between October 16 and June 30, the pile is less than 10 feet across.

A permit is required when any one of the conditions listed cannot be met. The permit fee is based on the estimated fuel. At time of printing, the permit fee for piles up to 100 tons is \$25.50.

See <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/rp/feesched.htm> for a complete fee schedule.

Call DNR's Pacific Cascade Regional Office at (360) 577-2025 to acquire a burn permit. Allow up to one week for the permit.

#### **Keep your fire safe and legal**

**DNR investigates and pursues recovery of all reasonable expenses for wildfires started through negligence on DNR protected lands. Follow your permit to stay safe and legal.**

#### **\* What is unimproved property?**

Lands that are not irrigated, mowed, or otherwise maintained including pastures, brush lands, scrub forests and forests.

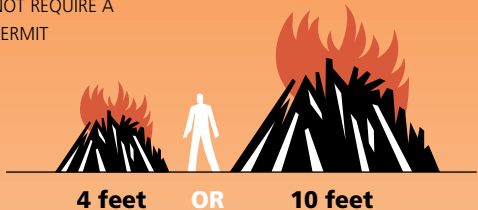
# Silvicultural Burning

## ▲ IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## ▼ GENERAL ADVICE

### Rule Burn

A FIRE THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT



JULY 1 TO  
OCTOBER 15

OCTOBER 16  
TO JUNE 30



Not more than one burn pile at a time.

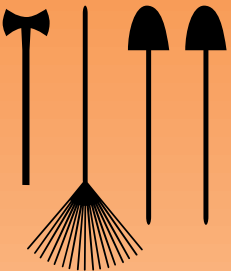
### Permit Burn

A PERMIT IS REQUIRED IF THE PILE EXCEEDS REQUIREMENTS ALLOWED BY THE RULE BURN

**Burn only when winds are calm or light, and do not exceed 7-10 miles per hour.**

**TIP** Dry fuel burns hot, clean and quick. Avoid burning wet debris. A clean fire creates less smoke.

Keep shovels, axes and a rake on site.

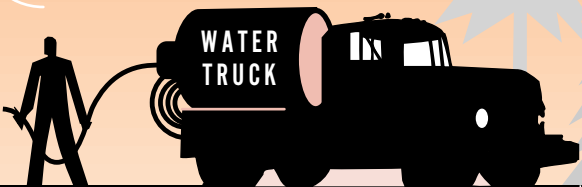


At least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting the fire out must be in attendance at all times, with a method to contact 9-1-1 if needed.



**Keep sufficient tools and water available.**

See permit for specific recommendations and requirements.



Burn pile must be **50 feet away** from any structure, standing timber or power lines. Burns need to be 500 feet from logging slash. Contact DNR offices for more details.

#### PERMITTED BURN

A permit is required if the pile exceeds requirements allowed by the Rule Burn.

Clear all flammable material within **1.5 times** the height of the pile.



ALWAYS CALL 1-800-323-BURN BEFORE YOU BURN FOR CURRENT BURN BAN INFORMATION

WAHKIAKUM	LEWIS	COWLITZ	CLARK	SKAMANIA
Public Works (360) 795-3067	Comm. Dev. Permit Center (360) 740-1146	SWCAA 1-800-633-0709	Fire Marshal's Office (360) 397-2186	Public Works (509) 427-3920
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A Small Burn Permit is required for piles up to 4x4x3 feet. This permit is free and can be obtained at your local fire station or by going to the public works department at the county courthouse.</li><li>▶ A Large Burn Permit is required for all piles larger than 4x4x3. These permits are free and can be obtained at the public works department at the county courthouse. These permits require review and approval before they are valid and may require a site inspection depending on the fire danger.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A free permit is required for all pile sizes outside of urban areas. You may obtain this permit by visiting <a href="http://www.co.lewis.wa.us">www.co.lewis.wa.us</a></li><li>▶ Burning is only allowed during daylight hours in non-urban areas of Lewis County. Call Lewis County Community Development at (360) 740-1133 for burn restrictions.</li><li>▶ For burning in urban areas, call the Southwest Clean Air Agency at 1-800-633-0709.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ No permit is required for burn piles smaller than 4x4x3 feet. Outside the Longview / Kelso No-Burn Area, a free written permit is required for piles between 4x4x3 and 10x10x6 feet. These are available from your local fire department or town hall. You may also obtain one in the mail by calling the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709 or visit <a href="http://www.swcleanair.org">www.swcleanair.org</a> to download the permit.</li><li>▶ All burns must comply with local ordinances and seasonal restrictions. Call your local fire department or town hall for specific requirements.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Outside of the No-Burn Zones, a free written permit is required for piles smaller than 10x10x6 feet. Permits usually are available from local fire departments. If not, call the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 397-2186 for permit locations.</li><li>▶ For residential burning of piles greater than 10x10x6 feet a land clearing permit will be required. See page 5A.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ All residential burning of piles smaller than 10x10x5 feet requires a free small fire permit.</li><li>▶ Burning of piles between 4x4x3 and 10x10x5 feet is allowed only between October 16 and June 30. Piles of natural vegetation smaller than 4x4x3 feet may be burned year round, except during seasonal burn bans.</li><li>▶ Permits usually may be obtained from your local fire department or town hall. They also may be obtained from Skamania County Public Works at (509) 427-3920. For piles larger than 10x10x5 feet, see land clearing requirements on page 5A.</li></ul>

# Residential Burning

## ▲ COUNTY REQUIREMENTS

## ▼ GENERAL ADVICE



All counties require permits (many are free) for fires between 4 and 10 feet. For piles larger than 10 feet, see instructions for Land Clearing (page 5).



**Always** obtain the landowner's permission before lighting any fire.

### Keep sufficient water available:

Recommendation for fires 10 feet in diameter or less is a charged garden hose long enough to reach around the fire.

At least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting out the fire must be in attendance at all times.

### Clean, no-dirt fire.

Dry fuel burns hot, clean and quick. Avoid burning wet woody debris. A clean fire creates less smoke.

Only one pile may be burned at a time, unless you have had the site inspected and paid the applicable fee. Allow one week for on-site inspection. Multiple pile permits run \$100 in most counties.



Keep a shovel and rake on site.

**Completely extinguish the fire. Never leave a fire unattended!**

Burning of any material, except firewood and natural vegetation grown on the property, is prohibited.



The fire should be **50 feet** away from any structure, standing timber or power lines.

**50 FEET  
OR MORE**

**3 to 10 FEET  
FIRE WIDTH**

**1.5 times  
FIRE HEIGHT**

Clear a firebreak around your fire that is free of flammable material. Rule of thumb is **1.5 times** the height of the pile.



ALWAYS CALL 1-800-323-BURN BEFORE YOU BURN FOR CURRENT BURN BAN INFORMATION

WAHKIAKUM	LEWIS	COWLITZ	CLARK	SKAMANIA
Public Works (360) 795-3067	Comm. Dev. Permit Center (360) 740-1146	SWCAA 1-800-633-0709	Fire Marshal's Office (360) 397-2186	SWCAA 1-800-633-0709
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A Large Burn Permit is required for land clearing burning. These permits are free and can be obtained at the public works department at the county courthouse. These permits require review and approval before they are valid and may require a site inspection depending on the fire danger. Call (360) 795-3067 for more information.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A permit is required to burn piles of land clearing debris outside of urban areas of Lewis County.</li><li>▶ Visit <a href="http://www.co.lewis.wa.us">www.co.lewis.wa.us</a> to obtain a free permit. The permit is valid for piles 20 feet in diameter by 12 feet high. Note that seasonal restrictions may apply. Call (360) 740-1133 for a recorded message on burn restrictions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Burn piles of land clearing debris or piles larger than 10x10x6 feet outside the Longview/Kelso No-Burn Area require a permit.</li><li>▶ Contact the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709 to request a site inspection, which will likely take place within one week of the request. There is a \$100 fee for this permit.</li><li>▶ All burns must comply with local ordinances and seasonal restrictions. Call your local fire department or town hall for burn permit locations.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A written permit and site inspection is required for piles larger than 10x10x6 feet and for land clearing operations.</li><li>▶ Call the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 397-2186 to schedule an appointment, which likely will take place within one week of the request.</li><li>▶ There is a fee for the permit.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ For piles larger than 10x10x5 feet, call Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709 to request an appointment for a land clearing permit, which will likely take place within one week of the request.</li><li>▶ There is a \$100 fee for this permit.</li></ul>



# Land Clearing Burning

- ▲ COUNTY REQUIREMENTS
- ▼ GENERAL ADVICE



All counties require permits to burn land clearing debris piles 10 feet or larger. Wahkiakum County requires a permit, free of charge, for any size pile of land clearing debris.



**Always**  
obtain the  
landowner's  
permission before  
lighting any fire.



**Keep sufficient  
tools and water  
available.**

Your permit will tell  
you exactly which tools, water and  
personnel need to be on site.  
Follow these instructions and all  
other conditions on your permit  
exactly as written. This is the  
best way to make sure you are  
burning safely and legally.

**Chunk it.**

Light one pile and  
bring material to it  
to avoid having  
several piles  
burning at the  
same time.

**Clean, no-dirt fire.**

Dry fuel burns hot, clean  
and quick. Avoid burning  
wet woody debris.  
A clean fire creates  
less smoke.

At least one person  
age 16 or older who is  
capable of putting the fire  
out and has a method to  
contact 9-1-1 must be  
in attendance  
at all times.



The fire should be **50 feet away**  
from any structure, standing timber  
or power lines.

Clear a firebreak that is free of  
flammable material. Rule of thumb is  
**1.5 times** height of the pile.



WAHAKIYAKUM	LEWIS	COWLITZ	CLARK	SKAMANIA
Public Works (360) 795-3067	Comm. Dev. Permit Center (360) 740-1146	SWCAA 1-800-633-0709	Fire Marshal's Office (360) 397-2186	Public Works (509) 427-3920
<div><div>▶ A Small Burn Permit is required for piles up to 4x4x3 feet. This permit is free and can be obtained at your local fire station or by going to the public works department at the county courthouse.</div><div>▶ Landowner permission is required.</div><div>▶ No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</div><div>▶ For piles in excess of 4x4x3 feet, call (360) 795-3067.</div></div>	<div><div>▶ No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</div><div>▶ Landowner permission is required.</div><div>▶ No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</div><div>▶ For piles in excess of 3x3x2 feet, contact Lewis County Community Development at (360) 740-1146 or visit <a href="http://www.co.lewis.wa.us">www.co.lewis.wa.us</a> to download a free permit.</div></div>	<div><div>▶ No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</div><div>▶ Landowner permission is required.</div><div>▶ No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</div><div>▶ Recreational fires in excess of 3x3x2 feet require a burn permit from SWCAA. In areas outside of no-burn zones, recreational fires up to 4x4x3 feet do not require a permit.</div></div>	<div><div>▶ No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</div><div>▶ Landowner permission is required.</div><div>▶ No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</div><div>▶ Recreational fires larger than 3x3x2 are not permitted within no-burn zones.</div></div>	<div><div>▶ No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 4x4x3 feet.</div><div>▶ For recreational fires in excess of 4x4x3 feet, a small fire permit is required that may be obtained from your local fire station, town hall or by calling Skamania County Public Works at (509) 427-3920.</div><div>▶ Landowner permission is required.</div><div>▶ No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</div></div>

# Recreational Burning

## ▲ COUNTY REQUIREMENTS

## ▼ GENERAL ADVICE



Recreational fires 3 feet in diameter or smaller do not need a permit. For larger piles see residential burning requirements (page 2).



**Always** obtain the landowner's permission before lighting any fire.

**No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.**



Burning of any material, except firewood and natural vegetation grown on the property, is prohibited.

### **Clean, no-dirt fire.**

Dry fuel burns hot, clean and quick. Avoid burning wet woody debris. A clean fire creates less smoke.

**Keep the campfire small.** A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat.

**Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze can quickly cause the fire to spread.**

There should always be at least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting out the fire.

### **Completely extinguish the fire.**

Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Move rocks—there may be burning embers underneath. Keep a charged garden hose or 2 five-gallon buckets of water and a shovel or rake on hand at all times.

Clear a firebreak around your campfire that is free of flammable material. The rule of thumb is **1.5 times** the height of the campfire.

**4.5 FEET  
OR MORE**

**3 FEET  
FIRE WIDTH**

**25 FEET**

The fire should be **25 feet** away from any structure or standing timber.

# Frequently Asked Questions



## What Can Be Burned?

No matter what type of fire you're planning, it is legal to burn only natural vegetation or firewood. It is against the law to burn anything else – even paper (except for the amount necessary to start a fire).



**YES**



**NO**



**NO**

## Can Burn Barrels Be Used?

No, the use of burn barrels is prohibited statewide.\*



**NO**

## Can Construction and Demolition Debris Be Burned?

It is illegal to burn any material resulting from a construction, renovation or demolition project.



**NO**

## When Is Burning Allowed?

Burning is allowed only during daylight hours, unless otherwise permitted. Check with your county for local ordinances. Recreational fires are excluded from this restriction. Burn only when winds are light and do not exceed 7 – 10 MPH. No burning is allowed during a burn ban. Call your local county offices or **1-800-323-BURN** for current burn ban information.

## When Is Burning Considered a Nuisance?

Smoke, odor or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is illegal. Call Southwest Clean Air Agency at **1-800-633-0709** to report all smoke related complaints. In Lewis County call **(360) 740-1133**.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

PACIFIC CASCADE REGION  
601 BOND ROAD  
PO BOX 280  
CASTLE ROCK, WA 98611-0280



\* Washington banned the use of burn barrels in 2000. Burning garbage has been illegal since 1967. WAC 173-425 bans the use of a burn barrel and prohibits the burning of all material, except firewood and natural vegetation grown on the property. This regulation also prohibits burning during periods of impaired air quality and prohibits outdoor burning from becoming a nuisance to surrounding neighbors and businesses.